2-Step Broad Agency Announcement

The 2-Step Process reduces acquisition resources for both the Government and industry. It may be considered when a large number of proposals are anticipated or to determine if further Government interest is warranted. If further interest is not warranted, industry saves unnecessary bid and proposal costs and the Government saves review time.

Overview Information

To access hyperlinks from this electronic solicitation – Hit CTRL and click on the link.

NAICS Code: The NAICS Code for this acquisition is 541715 (Research and Technology in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology), and the small business size standard is 1,000 employees.

Federal Agency Name: Air Force Research Laboratory, Sensors Directorate, Spectrum Warfare Division (AFRL/RYW)

Broad Agency Announcement Title: Resilient Open & Agile Avionics System & Technology Development (ROAASTD)

Broad Agency Announcement Type: This is the Initial Announcement

Broad Agency Announcement Number: FA8650-23-S-1031

THIS WILL BE A TWO-STEP SOLICITATION:

First Step: WHITE PAPER DUE DATE AND TIME: Accepted through 19 April 2028 by 1700, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH local time. Only white papers are due at this time.

Second Step: PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND TIME: To be provided in the Requests for Proposals sent to offerors that submit White Papers considered to meet the needs of the Air Force.

NOTE: ***White Paper receipt after the due date and time shall be governed by the provisions of FAR 52.215-1(c)(3).*** *It should be noted that this installation observes strict security procedures to enter the facility. These security procedures are NOT considered an interruption of normal Government processes, and proposals received after the above stated date and time as a result of security delays will be considered "late". Early white paper submission is encouraged.*

Submission: White Papers must be submitted to the Contracting Point of Contact (POC): Sarah Ballard, Contracting Specialist, AFRL/RYKSW sarah.ballard@us.af.mil and Richard Bailey, Contracting Officer, AFRL/RYKSW, richard.bailey.26@us.af.mil

Solicitation Request: Air Force Research Laboratory, Sensors Directorate, Spectrum Warfare Division (AFRL/RYW), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is soliciting white papers on the research effort described below.

Type of Contract/Instrument: The Air Force reserves the right to award the instrument best suited to the nature of research proposed. Accordingly, the Government may award any appropriate contract type under the FAR or Other Transaction (OT) for Prototype, grant, cooperative agreement, or OT for Research. The Air Force may also consider award of an appropriate technology transfer mechanism if applicable. It is anticipated that awards under this BAA will generally be Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) definitive contract (C-type)". Cost reimbursement contracts require successful offerors to have an accounting system considered adequate for tracking costs applicable to the contract.

Estimated Program Cost: The total program value is $30,000,000 with multiple awards estimated at $3,000,000 to $6,000,000.

Anticipated Number of Awards: The Air Force anticipates awarding multiple awards for this announcement. However, the Air Force reserves the right to award zero, one, or more contracts for all, some or none of the solicited effort based on the offeror's ability to perform desired work and funding fluctuations.

Brief Program Summary: The US defense strategy continues to evolve to best position the Department of Defense (DoD) to counter evolving global threats, to provide an effective geopolitical deterrent for the nation, and to maintain a decisive military advantage in light of global technological access. New techniques in system and platform resilience, agility, and open systems standards are needed to enable rapid integration of revolutionary sensor and mission system capabilities. To respond to the global threats, AFRL Sensors Directorate is pursuing technologies supporting the Air Force's ability to defend against increasingly sophisticated adversaries in order to dominate time, space, and complexity in future conflicts. Future conflicts are expected to be in contested environments where rapid and agile processes and development are needed to ensure effective experimentation, resulting in rapidly fieldable technology to meet warfighter needs in a timely manner.

Communication Between Prospective Offerors and Government Representatives: The acquisition team intends to manage communications in a manner best designed to facilitate the submittal of optimal proposals while not providing any unfair competitive advantages. Technical communications will be managed by the Program Manager identified below. Dialogue between prospective offerors and Government representatives is encouraged until submission of white papers. Discussions with any of the points of contact shall not constitute a

commitment by the Government to subsequently fund or award any proposed effort. Only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to commit the Government.

Address technical questions to the Technical POC: Erin Duffley, Program Manager, erin.duffley@us.af.mil

Address contracting questions to the Contracting POC: Sarah Ballard, Contracting Specialist, AFRL/RYKSW sarah.ballard@us.af.mil and Richard Bailey, Contracting Officer, AFRL/RYKSW, richard.bailey.26@us.af.mil

Full Text Announcement

I. Program Description: Air Force Research Laboratory, Sensors Directorate, Spectrum Warfare Division (AFRL/RYW), is soliciting white papers (and later technical and cost proposals) on the following research effort:

1. **Statement of Objective/Description of Technical Area(s)**: Offerors must request Attachment 1 – "Resilient Open & Agile Avionics System & Technology Development (ROAASTD) Statement of Objectives (SOO)" from Contracting POC.

2. **Within Scope Modifications:** Potential offerors are advised that due to the inherent uncertainty of research and development efforts, awards resulting from this announcement may be modified during performance to make within scope changes, to include but not limited to, modifications which increase overall contract ceiling amount and modifications under authority of DFARS 235.006-71.

3. **Deliverable Items:**
   a. Data Items: See attached DD Form 1423-1 CDRLs (Attachment 2)
   b. Software: Software deliverables to be determined (TBD) based on proposal, if applicable.
   c. Hardware: Hardware not anticipated, but will be determined based on individual proposals.
   d. Other: See applicable SOO (Attachment 1)

4. **Schedule**:
   a. Individual Awards: 12-24 month Period of Performance per contract
   b. Overall effort: 60 month Period of Performance
   c. Data Items: Specified on individual CDRLs (Attachment 2)
   d. Software: Software deliverable dates to be determined, if applicable.
   e. Hardware: Hardware deliverable dates to be determined, if applicable.

5. **Other Requirements:**
   a. This announcement incorporates FAR and supplement provisions and clauses by reference. The full text of provisions and clauses can be found at Acquisition.gov.
   b. Program Security Classification: Up to and including TS/SCI and some awards may not require TS/SCI. See DD254 (Attachment 3). Offerors must verify their Cognizant Security Office information is current with Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) at www.dcsa.mil.
   c. OPSEC: See SOO (Attachment 1) for OPSEC guidance.

d. Export Control: Information involved in this research effort may be subject to Export Control (International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) 22 CFR 120-131, or Export Administration Regulations (EAR) 15 CFR 710-774). A Certified DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, will be required to be submitted with proposal.

e. Export-Controlled Items: As prescribed by DFARS 225.7901-4, DFARS 252.225-7048, "Export-Controlled Item (JUN 2013)" is contained in this solicitation. This clause shall be contained in ALL resulting contracts.

f. Science and Technology (S&T) Protection: In accordance with Air Force Research Laboratory Instruction (AFRLI) 61-113, *"Science and Technology (S&T) Protection for the Air Force Research Laboratory"*, offerors are required to submit the following as part of their proposal:

1) A completed initial Standard Form (SF) 424, *Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form*, (Attachment 4) for all Senior/Key Personnel proposed in support of the AFRLI 61-113 Personnel Risk Assessment requirement.

2) Documentation of a Security Program Plan in support of the AFRLI 61-113 Initial Institution S&T Protection Program Review requirement. This must include, at a minimum, a completed Security Program Questionnaire (Attachment 5). Submittal may also include a pre-existing plan that that the offeror uses as a matter of course or plan developed specifically for this acquisition. The purpose of requesting the plan is to assess the offeror's capacity for protection of the Government's S&T. Failure to demonstrate a plan adequate to meet the needs of the requirements, as determined by the Government in its sole discretion, may be grounds for considering the proposal unawardable.

<u>Government Procedures</u>

The Government will review the submitted S&T protection documentation only for those proposals categorized as Selectable and selected for funding and negotiations.

S&T Protection Initial Risk Review:

- Personnel Risk Assessment: The Government will review non-government research key/senior performers identified by the offeror on the initial SF 424 for workload conflicts and conflicts of interest.
- Initial Institution S&T Protection Program Review: The Government will review the offeror's security program information submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of this section (above) to identify any potential risks and ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect S&T information.

The Government may require the offeror to submit additional information and/or a mitigation plan for any identified S&T protection risks. If the Government determines the offeror failed to provide adequate additional information; or an acceptable mitigation plan; or it is determined the offeror's S&T protection approach is high risk and does not provide adequate protection of S&T information, the Government may reject the proposal and withdraw it from consideration for award.

S&T Protection Annual Risk Review: In accordance with Attachment 6 (SOW Supplemental Requirements), the Contractor shall provide an SF 424 with the following information: 1) an initial report of all Senior/Key Personnel at the time of award; 2) an annual report of all Senior/Key Personnel providing support; and 3) a report for any new Senior/Key Personnel who join the contract, agreement, grant, or OT. Any updated SF 424s for new Senior/Key Personnel supporting the award require coordination from the Government prior to the contractor employee receiving access to S&T information. The purpose of this report is oversight and should not be construed as relieving the contractor/recipient of any S&T Protection requirements within the contract, grant, agreement, or OT.

6. **Other Information:**

a. Government Furnished Property (GFP) Availability: GFP is not anticipated to be made available under any resulting contract.

b. Base Support/Network Access: Base support and Network access will be made available under any resulting contract.

(1) Available Base Facilities: Lab and office space available will be considered on each individual contract awarded.

c. Multiple awards subject to Fair Opportunity are not anticipated.

d. Data Rights Desired:

(1) Technical Data: Unlimited Rights

(2) Other than commercial software: Unlimited Rights

(3) Other than commercial software Documentation: Unlimited Rights

(4) Commercial Computer Software Rights: Customary Commercial License consistent with Federal statutes and regulations

The Air Force Research Laboratory is engaged in the discovery, development, and integration of warfighting technologies for our air, space, and cyberspace forces. As such, rights in other than commercial technical data and other than commercial software developed or delivered under this contract are of significant concern to the Government. The Government will therefore evaluate any restrictions on the use of other than commercial technical data, Other than commercial software, and Other than commercial software documentation which could result in

transition difficulty or less-than full and open competition for subsequent development of this technology.

In accordance with DFARS 252.227-7013(b)(1) and 252.227-7014(b)(1), the Government shall receive unlimited rights in all other than commercial technical data and computer software developed exclusively with Government funds.

In accordance with DFARS 252.227-7013(b)(2) and DFARS 252.227-7014(b)(2), the Government shall receive Government Purpose Rights in all other than commercial technical data and computer software developed with mixed funding. "Developed with mixed funding" means, "development was accomplished partially with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a government contract, and partially with costs charged directly to a government contract. Offerors that propose delivery of other than commercial technical data, other than commercial software, or other than commercial software documentation subject to Government Purpose Rights should fully explain how a portion of the data was developed at private expense. Specifically, offerors must explain what other than commercial technical data, other than commercial software, other than commercial software documentation developed with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a Government contract will be incorporated, how the incorporation will benefit the program, and address whether those portions or processes are segregable.

Offerors that propose delivery of other than commercial technical data with Limited Rights, other than commercial software with Restricted Rights, or other than commercial software documentation with Limited Rights will be considered. Proposals should fully explain what other than commercial technical data, other than commercial software, or other than commercial software documentation developed with costs charged to indirect cost pools and/or costs not allocated to a Government contract will be incorporated and how the incorporation will benefit the program and whether those portions or processes are segregable.

Offerors shall include the data rights assertions as required by DFARS 252.227-7017*,* Identification and Assertion of Restrictions on the Government's Use, Release, or Disclosure of Technical Data or Computer Software. The assertions list is included in Section K and due at time of proposals. Assertions must be completed with specificity. Each assertion must identify the technical data or computer software to be delivered and the associated item, component, or process developed exclusively or partially at private expense to which it pertains. Nonconforming data rights assertion lists will not be accepted until submitted in accordance with DFARS 252.227-7017.

Terms used in this section are defined in the clauses at 252.227-7013, Rights in Technical Data—Other Than Commercial Products and Commercial Services, and 252.227-7014, Rights in Other Than Commercial Computer Software and Other Than Commercial Computer Software Documentation.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE (COMMERCIAL AND OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL):

If any such software, other than commercial or commercial, is not reasonably identifiable at proposal submission, it must still be approved by the contracting officer prior to incorporation. This obligation to obtain pre-approval by the contracting officer, as described above, continues throughout contract administration.

Other Than Commercial Computer Software:

DFARS 252.227-7014(d) describes requirements for incorporation of third party other than commercial copyrighted computer software and computer software documentation and is incorporated as follows:

> The Contractor shall not, without the written approval of the Contracting Officer, incorporate any copyrighted computer software or computer software documentation in the software or documentation to be delivered under this contract unless the Contractor is the copyright owner or has obtained for the Government the license rights necessary to perfect a license or licenses in the deliverable software or documentation of the appropriate scope set forth in DFARS 252.227-7014(b), and prior to delivery of such—
>
> > (1) Computer software, has provided a statement of the license rights obtained in a form acceptable to the Contracting Officer; or
> >
> > (2) Computer software documentation, has affixed to the transmittal document a statement of the license rights obtained.

In addition, all other than commercial computer software will receive the appropriate level rights set forth in DFARS 252-7014(b), which could include: Unlimited rights, Government Purpose Rights, Restricted Rights, or specifically negotiated license.

Commercial Computer Software:

For commercial computer software, the Government will neither accept nor execute a DD Form 250 for such software deliverables until the Contractor obtains from all third party software suppliers and/or vendors (Licensor) licenses for any commercial computer software to be delivered that are consistent with Federal Statutes, Federal Case Law, and Federal Regulations.

II. Award Information

1. **Anticipated Award Date:** Award dates will vary. White papers will be accepted for review through 19 April 2028.
2. **Anticipated funding** for the program (not per contract):

FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	TOTAL
$6M	$6M	$6M	$6M	$6M	$30M

This funding plan is an estimate only and not a contractual obligation for funding. All funding is subject to change due to Government discretion and availability. Potential offerors should be aware that due to unanticipated budget fluctuations funding in any or all areas may change with little or no notice.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Offeror**: This is an unrestricted solicitation. Small businesses are encouraged to propose.
2. **Cost Sharing or Matching**: Cost Sharing is not required, but is allowed.
3. **Federally Funded Research and Development Centers**: The following guidance is provided for Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) contemplating submitting a proposal, as either a prime or subcontractor. FAR 35.017-1(c)(4) prohibits an FFRDC from competing with any non-FFRDC concern in response to a Federal agency request for proposal for other than the operation of an FFRDC (with exceptions stated in DFARS 235.017-1(c)(4)). There is no regulation prohibiting an FFRDC from responding to a solicitation. However, the FFRDC's sponsoring agency must first make a determination that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort, or special competency of the FFRDC, and that determination must be included in the FFRDC's proposal. In addition, AFRL must make a determination that the work proposed would not place the FFRDC in direct competition with domestic private industry. Only after these determinations are made, would a determination be made concerning the FFRDC's eligibility to receive an award.
4. **Government Agencies**: If a Government agency is interested in performing work, contact the Program Manager identified in the BAA. If those discussions result in a mutual interest to pursue your agency's participation, the effort will be pursued independent of this announcement.
5. **Other**:
   a. Foreign Participation: Foreign participation in this effort is prohibited.

b. This acquisition involves data that are subject to export control laws and regulations. Only contractors who are registered and certified with the Defense Logistics Agency and have a legitimate business purpose may participate in this solicitation. Contact the U.S./Canada Joint Certification Program Office, Defense Logistics Agency, Logistics Information Services J34, HDI Federal Center, 74 Washington Avenue N., Battle Creek, Michigan 49037-3084, (1-800-352-3572) or the Joint Certification Program Office (JCO) at JCP-Helpdesk@dla.mil for further information on the certification process. You must submit a copy of your approved DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, with your proposal.

d. There are no limits on the number of white papers/proposals an offeror may submit.

e. You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the white paper (and later proposal) due date as identified above.

IV. White Paper / Proposal and Submission Information

1. **Overview**: This Announcement consists of a Two-Step Process described in detail below. White Papers/Proposals submitted shall be in accordance with this announcement. *There will be no other solicitation issued in regard to this requirement.* The Government intends to review white papers/proposals and award some, all, or none of the proposals received without negotiation/discussion; however, the Government reserves the right to negotiate with those offeror(s) whose proposal is selected for funding.

   ONLY WHITE PAPERS ARE BEING SOLICITED AT THIS TIME.

   Offerors should be alert for any BAA amendments that may permit extensions to the white paper submission date.

   For additional information, a copy of the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Guide for Industry is located at https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/HQ/BAA%20Ind%20Guide%202020.pdf?ver=7AivkWvoUoptKgypgCuIvw%3d%3d

2. **First Step (White Paper) Instructions**:

   a. General: The *FIRST STEP* requests a white paper and a rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost. The white paper shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the offeror's proposed technical approach. The Government will review the white papers in accordance with the FIRST STEP Peer or Scientific Review criteria, set forth in Section V below. Based on this review, the Government will determine which of them have the potential to best meet the Air Force's needs. Offerors will

be notified of the disposition of their white paper. It is anticipated that Government review of the white papers submitted will take 30 days. Those offerors submitting white papers assessed as meeting Air Force needs will be asked to submit a technical and cost proposal. Those offerors not requested to submit a technical and cost proposal will be notified but may, however, still elect to submit a technical and cost proposal. An offeror submitting a proposal without first submitting a white paper will not be eligible for an award. The cost of preparing white papers in response to this Solicitation is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting or any other contract; however, it may be an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in FAR 31.205-18.

b. Page Limitation: The White Paper shall be limited to 5 pages (1 cover page, 3 pages technical, 1 page summary chart), prepared and submitted in Word format. Font shall be standard 10-point business font Arial. Character spacing must be "normal," not condensed in any manner. Pages shall be double-spaced (must use standard double-space function in Microsoft Word), double-sided (each side counts as one page), 8.5 by 11 inches, with at least one-inch margins on both sides, top and bottom. All text, including text in tables and charts, must adhere to all font size and line spacing requirements listed herein. Font and line spacing requirements do not have to be followed for illustrations, flowcharts, drawings, diagrams, cover page, table of contents, and restrictive/ proprietary markings (in header or footer). These exceptions shall not be used to circumvent formatting requirements and page count limitations by including lengthy narratives in such items. Pages shall be numbered starting with the cover page being Page 1, and the last page being no greater than Page 5. The page limitation covers all information including indices, photographs, foldouts (counted as 1 page for each 8.5 by 11 portion) tables, charts, appendices, attachments, resumes, etc. The Government will not consider pages in excess of these limitations. Offerors should submit white papers electronically via email to Angelica Hibbert, Contracting Officer, AFRL/RYKSE, angelica.hibbert@us.af.mil, (937) 713-5642, or through secure file exchange https://safe.apps.mil/.

c. Format: The white paper will be formatted as follows:

(1) Section A: BAA Number, Title of Program, Name of Company, Business Size, Company's Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) number, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, Contracting POC and Technical POC with appropriate telephone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses for the POCs.

(2) Section B: Period of Performance and Task Objectives;

(3) Section C: Technical Summary and Proposed Deliverables; and

(4) Section D: Cost of Task (Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM)).

d. Technical Portion: The technical portion of the white paper shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the offeror's proposed technical approach/solution. It may also include any proposed

deliverables. Resumes, descriptions of facilities and equipment, a proposed Statement of Work are not required at this point.

e. Cost Portion: The cost portion of the white paper shall include a ROM cost estimate. No detailed price or cost support information should be forwarded; only a time-phased bottom line figure should be provided.

f. Other Information: Multiple white papers within the purview of this announcement may be submitted by each offeror. If the offeror wishes to restrict its white papers, they must be marked with the restrictive language stated in FAR 52.215-1(e).

g. White Paper Content Summary: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the white paper due date.

3. **Second Step (Proposal) Instructions**:

a. **General Instructions**:

(1) The *SECOND STEP* consists of offerors submitting a technical and cost proposal within 30 days of the proposal request. After receipt, proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the award criteria in Section V. below. Proposals will be categorized and subsequently selected for negotiations.

(2) Offerors should apply the restrictive notice prescribed in FAR 52.215-1(e) Instructions to Offerors—Competitive Acquisition. Offerors should consider proposal instructions contained in the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Guide for Industry, which can be accessed on line at https://www.afrl.af.mil/Portals/90/Documents/HQ/BAA%20Ind%20Guide%202020.pdf?ver=7AivkWvoUoptKgypgCuIvw%3d%3d. This guide is specifically designed to assist the offeror in understanding the BAA proposal process.

(3) Technical/management and cost/business volumes should be submitted in separate volumes and must be valid for 180 days.

(4) Proposals must reference announcement number FA8650-23-S-1031.

(5) The cost file(s) spreadsheets must be in Microsoft Excel and include the formulas for calculating cost element bases (i.e., G&A, O/H, etc.)

(6) Offerors are advised that only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to contractually bind or otherwise commit the Government.

(7) The cost of preparing proposals in response to this BAA is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting or any other contract; however, it may be an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost as specified in FAR 31.205-18.

(8) No classified technical proposals or cost volumes are expected. Offerors are encouraged to keep all elements of the proposal package unclassified. In the rare case where an offeror has a need to submit a classified appendix, please contact the technical POC for delivery instructions.

b. **Technical/Management Proposal**:

(1) Page Limitations: The following describes proposal page limitations:

a) The Technical/Management Proposal shall be limited to 20 pages. Technical/Management proposals and Statements of Work must be provided in Microsoft Word. Signed pages may be submitted in Adobe.

b) Font shall be standard 10-point business font Arial.

c) Character spacing must be "normal," not condensed in any manner.

d) Pages shall be double-spaced (must use standard double-space function in Microsoft Word), double sided (each side counts as one page), 8.5 by 11 inches, with at least one-inch margins on both sides, top and bottom.

e) All text, including text in tables and charts, must adhere to all font size and line spacing requirements listed herein. Font and line spacing requirements do not have to be followed for illustrations, flowcharts, drawings, diagrams, cover page, table of contents, and restrictive/proprietary markings (in header or footer). These exceptions shall not be used to circumvent formatting requirements and page count limitations by including lengthy narratives in such items.

f) Pages shall be numbered starting with the cover page being Page 1, and the last page being no greater than Page 20. The page limitation covers all information including indices, photographs, foldouts (counted as 1 page for each 8.5 by 11 portion) tables, charts, appendices, attachments, resumes, etc.

g) The proposal page limit does not include the offeror's proposed Statement of Work (SOW); however, the same formatting rules apply to the SOW, which is limited to 5 pages.

h) **Please Note: The Government will check the proposal and SOW for conformance to the stated requirements. Any pages in excess of the stated page limitation after the format check will not be considered for review purposes.**

(2) The Technical/Management proposal shall include a discussion of the nature and scope of the research and the technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, use of base support (if desired), data and facilities and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included as attachments to the technical proposal. This volume shall include a SOW detailing the technical tasks proposed to be accomplished under the proposed effort and suitable for contract incorporation. ***Do not include any proprietary information in the SOW.*** Refer to the BAA Guide for Industry referenced above to assist in SOW preparation. In addition to the contractor proposed SOW, a Government generated SOW attachment containing additional contracting requirements will be included in any

resulting contracts. The SOO is included as Attachment 1 to this BAA.

(3) Any questions concerning the technical proposal or SOW preparation shall be referred to the Technical POC.

c. **Cost/Business Proposal**:

(1) Separate the proposal into a business section and cost section.

a) See Attachment 7 for the Model Contract. Note that the document awarded may include contract line items (CLINs)/clauses/articles in addition to those in the model, and/or some of the CLIN/clauses/articles in the model may be deleted, depending on the specific circumstances of the individual award. Any additions or deletions will be negotiated with the offeror prior to award.

b) The business section should contain all business aspects to the proposed contract, such as type of contract, any exceptions to terms and conditions of the announcement including the model contract, any information not technically related, etc. Provide rationale for exceptions.

c) Associate Contractor Agreements: Associate Contractor Agreements (ACAs) are agreements between contractors working on Government contracts that require them to share information, data, technical knowledge, expertise, or resources. The contracting officer may require ACAs when contractors working on separate Government contracts must cooperate, share resources or otherwise jointly participate in working on contracts or projects. Prime contractor to subcontractor relationships do not constitute ACAs. For each award, the contracting officer will identify associate contractors with whom agreements are required.

d) Identify any technical data that will be delivered with less than unlimited rights.

e) Subcontracting Plans: For efforts to exceed $750,000, Subcontracting Plans shall be submitted in the cost/business proposal. Reference FAR 19.704 and DFARS 219.704 for subcontracting plan requirements. Small business concerns are exempt from this requirement.

f) Limitations on Pass-Through Charges: As prescribed in FAR 15.408(n)(1) & 15.408(n)(2), provisions 52.215-22, "Limitations on Pass Through Charges- Identification of Subcontract Effort (Oct 2009)," apply.

g) Completed Certifications and Representations (Section K) are due with the proposal. Certifications and Representations (Section K) can be found at Attachment 8. Offerors may also be required to submit updated or supplemental Certifications and Representations based on the specifics of their proposal.

h) If an offeror proposes the use of Government Furnished Property (GFP), other than GFP identified in the BAA, the offer must specifically identify each piece of GFP in the Cost/Business Proposal and propose and substantiate a rental cost for evaluation purposes in accordance with FAR 45.202. Include the following information in the proposal:

(i) A list describing all Government property that the offeror or its subcontractors propose to use on a rent-free basis. The list shall identify the accountable contract under which the property is held and the authorization for its use (from the contracting officer having cognizance of the property);
(ii) The dates during which the property will be used and, for any property that will be used concurrently in performing two or more contracts, the amounts of the respective uses in sufficient detail to support prorating the rent;
(iii) The amount of rent that would otherwise be charged in accordance with FAR 52.245-9, Use and Charges; and
(iv) The voluntary consensus standard or industry leading practices and standards to be used in the management of Government property, or existing property management plans, methods, practices, or procedures for accounting for property.

(2) **Cost Element Breakdown:** Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror's financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As a part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit the information outlined below, together with supporting breakdowns. All direct costs (labor, material, travel, computer, etc.) as well as labor and overhead rates should be provided by Government Fiscal Year (GFY). The supporting schedules may include summary level estimating rationale used to generate the proposed costs. The cost element breakdown should include the following if applicable.

a) **Direct Labor**: Direct labor should be detailed by number of labor hours by category of labor.
b) **Labor and Overhead Rates**: Direct labor hours, with their applicable rates, must be broken out and the bases used clearly identified. The source of labor and overhead rates and all pricing factors should be identified. For instance, if a Forward Pricing Rate Agreement (FPRA) is in existence, that should be noted, along with the Administrative Contracting Officer’s (ACO's) name and telephone number. If the rates are based on current experience in your organization, provide the historical base used and clearly identify all escalation, by year, applied to derive the proposed rates. If computer usage is determined by a rate, identify the basis used and rationale used to derive the rate.

c) **Material/Equipment:** List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes, data and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.

d) **Subcontractor Costs**: Submit all subcontractor proposals and analyses with your cost proposal (See FAR 15.404-3(b)). If the subcontractor will not submit cost and pricing information to the offeror, this information must be submitted directly to the Government for analysis. On all subcontracts and interdivisional transfers, provide the method of selection used to determine the subcontractor and the proposed contract type of each subcontract. An explanation shall be provided if the offeror proposes a different amount than that quoted by the subcontractor. The offeror's proposal must:

(i) Identify principal items/services to be subcontracted.

(ii) Identify prospective subcontractors and the basis on which they were selected. If non-competitive, provide selected source justification.

(iii) Identify the type of contractual business arrangement contemplated for the subcontract and provide rationale

(iv) Identify the basis for the subcontract costs (e.g., firm quote or engineering estimate, etc).

(v) Identify the cost or pricing data submitted by the subcontractor.

(vi) Provide an analysis of the proposed subcontract in accordance with FAR 15.404-3(b). Provide an analysis concerning the reasonableness, realism and completeness of each subcontractor's proposal. If the analysis is based on comparison with prior prices, identify the basis on which the prior prices were determined to be reasonable. The analysis should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: materials, labor, travel, other direct costs and proposed profit or fee rates.

e) **Special Tooling or Test Equipment:** When special tooling, and/or test equipment is proposed, attach a brief description of items and indicate if they are solely for the performance of this particular contract or project and if they are or are not already available in the offeror's existing facilities. Indicate quantities, unit prices, whether items are to be purchased or fabricated, whether items are of a severable nature and the basis of the price. These items may be included under Direct Material in the summary format.

f) **Consultants:** When consultants are proposed to be used in the performance of the contract, indicate the specific project or area in which such services are to be used. Identify each consultant, number of hours or days to be used and the consultant's rate per

hour or day. State the basis of said rate and give your analysis of the acceptability of the consultant's rate.

g) **Travel:** Travel costs must be justified and related to the needs of the project. Identify the number of trips, the destination and purpose. Travel costs should be broken out by trip with number of travelers, airfare, per diem, lodging, etc.

h) **Computer Use:** Detail the amount and kind of computer usage, the cost, and how the costs were derived.

i) **Facilities Capital Cost of Money:** If Facilities Capital Cost of Money is proposed, a properly executed DD Form 1861 is required.

j) **Project Funding Profile:** Offerors should include a project funding profile by Government Fiscal Year (GFY) (1 Oct through 30 Sept) for budgetary purposes. This will enable the Government to easily identify program funding needs by GFY.

k) If an offeror takes exceptions to the requirements called out in the announcement (e.g., base support, Government-furnished property (GFP), CDRLs), the exceptions should be clearly stated in the cost proposal.

l) **Forward Pricing Rate Agreements:** Offerors who have forward pricing rate agreements (FPRA's) and forward pricing rate recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.

m) Cost/Business proposals have no page limitations.

e. **Proposal Content Summary**: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.

V. White Paper / Proposal Review Information

1. **FIRST STEP – White Paper Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:** The Government will review White Papers to determine which of them have the potential to best meet the Air Force's needs based on the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance:

   a. Is the technical approach consistent with the technologies listed in the BAA?
   b. Is the research of interest to the government?
   c. Does the approach offer new and creative solutions and/or advances in knowledge, understanding, technology, and the state of the art?
   d. Is appropriate funding available based on ROM?

2. **SECOND STEP – Proposal Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:** Proposals will be reviewed against the criteria listed below. The technical aspect, which is ranked as the first order of priority, shall be reviewed based on the following criteria that are of descending order of importance.

a. **Technical**:

(1) Unique and innovative approach proposed to accomplish the technical objectives. New and creative solutions and/or advances in knowledge, understanding, technology, and the state of the art.

(2) The offeror's understanding of the scope of the technical effort.

(3) Soundness of the offeror's technical approach including whether the proposal identifies major technical risks, clearly defines feasible mitigation efforts, and demonstrates related experience and qualifications of technical personnel.

(4) The potential to transition the research and development deliverables to future Government needs. Any proposed restriction on technical data or computer software will be considered.

b. **Cost/Price**: The cost/price criterion includes the realism of the proposed cost. Cost/Price is a substantial factor, but ranked as the second order of priority. (If an offeror proposes the use of GFP other than any GFP identified in this BAA, and that proposed GFP provides the offeror an unfair competitive advantage, then FAR 45.202 requires rental equivalent be applied to the Cost Factor for evaluation purposes only).

3. **SECOND STEP / PROPOSAL - Review and Selection Process**

a. **Categories**: Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of one or more sources for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

(1) **Selectable:** Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available

(2) **Not Selectable:** Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

b. No other criteria will be used.

c. Prior to award of a potentially successful offer, the Contracting Officer will make a determination regarding price reasonableness.

d. As indicated in Section I.5 above, the Government will conduct a S&T Protection Initial Risk Review only for those proposals categorized as Selectable and selected for funding and negotiations.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. **Award Notices**: Offerors will be notified whether their proposal is recommended for award on or about 30 days from proposal receipt date. The notification is not to be construed to mean that any contract award is assured, as availability of funds and successful negotiations are prerequisites to any award.

2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**: See Section I.

3. **Reporting:** See Contract Data Requirements List (Attachment 2).

VII. Other Information

1. **Acquisition of Commercial Items**: Based upon market research, the Government is not using the policies contained in Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Items, in this solicitation. However, interested offerors may identify to the Contracting Officer their interest and capability to satisfy the Government's requirement with a commercial item within 15 days of this notice.

2. **Support Contractors:** Only Government employees will participate in Peer or Scientific Reviews. Offerors are advised that employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process proposals, monitor contract performance, or perform other administrative duties requiring access to other contractors' proprietary information. These support contracts include nondisclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors or using such information for any purpose other than that for which it was furnished.

3. **Feedback Sessions:** When requested, a Feedback Session will be provided with content consistent with the procedures that govern BAAs (FAR 35.016). The process will follow the time guidelines outlined in the award notice described in Paragraph VI.1.

4. **Item Unique Identification and Valuation:** It is DoD policy that contractors shall be required to identify the Government's unit acquisition cost for all deliverable end items for which Item Unique Identification applies.

Therefore, proposals must clearly break out the unit acquisition cost for any deliverable items. See DFARS 211.274-3, Policy for Valuation, for more information. (Per DoD, "fully burdened unit costs" to the Government would include all direct, indirect, G&A costs, and an appropriate portion of fee). For more information, see the following website: https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/ce/index.html.

5. **Pre-Award Clearance:** Pursuant to FAR 22.805, a preaward clearance must be obtained from the U.S. Department Of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Office Of Federal Contract Compliance Program's (OFCCP) prior to award of a contract (or subcontract) of $10,000,000 or more unless the contractor is listed in OFCCP's National Preaward Registry https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/pre-award. Award may be delayed if you are not currently listed in the registry and the contracting officer must request a preaward clearance from the OFCCP.

6. **Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters:** Any contract or assistance award that exceeds $600,000; and when offeror checked "has" in paragraph (b) of the provision FAR 52.209-7, shall contain the clause/article, FAR 52.209-9 "Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters."

7. Offerors are required to submit the completed provision at DFARS 252.215-7009 Proposal Adequacy Checklist with their proposal. (See Attachment 9)

8. **White Paper/Proposal Reminders**: You may be ineligible for award if all requirements of this solicitation are not met on the proposal due date.

   a. ***Step One***: White Papers are due to the Contracting POC.
   b. ***Step One***: White Papers are due no later than the due date and time specified in this announcement.
   c. ***Step One and Step Two***: White Paper and Proposal page limits are strictly enforced.
   d. ***Step One and Step Two***: White Papers and Proposals must be submitted in the format specified.
   e. ***Step Two:*** Proposals are due to the Contracting POC.
   f. ***Step Two:*** The Cost/Business Proposal must contain all information described in the Cost/Business Proposal Submission Section.
   g. ***Step Two:*** Offerors other than small businesses must include a subcontracting plan.
   h. ***Step Two:*** Offerors who have Forward Pricing Rate Agreements (FPRA's) or Forward Pricing Rate Recommendations (FPRR's) should submit them with their proposal.
   i. ***Step Two:*** If a DD254 is applicable, offerors must verify their Cognizant Security Office information is current with Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) at www.dcsa.mil.

j. ***Step Two****:* If effort is subject to export control, offerors must submit a Certified DD Form 2345, Militarily Critical Technical Data Agreement, with proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Statement of Objectives
2. CDRLs
3. DD254
4. SF424
5. Security Program Questionnaire
6. Statement of Work (SOW) Supplemental Requirements
7. Model Contract
8. Section K- Representations and Certifications
9. Proposal Adequacy Checklist